

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 11 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A data converting apparatus comprising:

a data converting part converting a set of input data into a set of image data that can be processed by an image forming apparatus forming an image on a medium in accordance with the set of image data;

a superimposing part superimposing at least a first set of image data converted from a first set of input data substantially prior to a time of printing and a second set of image data converted from a second set of input data different from the first set of input data, the second set of input data including non-image data, to generate a single set of superimposed image data;

a limiting part limiting use of the single set of superimposed image data in accordance with limitation information showing a limitation of use of the first set of input data;

the image forming apparatus forming an image on the medium based on the single set of superimposed image data;

the superimposing part superimposing the first and second sets of image data substantially when the image forming apparatus receives a command to form the image on the medium;

the limitation information including a first permission of a user to initiate the superimposing by the superimposing part, a second permission of a user to modify the first set of input data, and a third permission of a user to delete the first set of input data;

the first permission, the second permission, and the third permission being indicated by specified bits in the limitation information; and

limitation information for each user being stored in the first set of input data.

2. (Original) The data converting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a data sending part sending the single set of superimposed image data to the image forming apparatus.

3. (Previously Presented) The data converting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a form storing part selectively storing the set of image data converted from the set of input data as a predetermined form that is superimposed and storing the limitation information by associating the limitation information with the predetermined form.

4. (Previously Presented) The data converting apparatus as claimed in claimed 3, wherein the form storing part comprises a registration part registering the set of image data as a predetermined form that is superimposed.

5. (Original) The data converting apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a form selecting part selecting one of at least one predetermined form stored by the form storing part.

6. (Original) The data converting apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a form changing part changing the predetermined form stored by the form storing part.

7. (Original) The data converting apparatus as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a store control part selectively storing the predetermined form changed by the form changing part.

8. (Previously Presented) The data converting apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the form changing part changes layout information of the predetermined form on the medium, which information the form storing part stores by associating with the predetermined form.

9. (Previously Presented) The data converting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a previewing part previewing the single set of superimposed image data generated by the superimposing part.

10. (Previously Presented) A data converting apparatus comprising:

a data converting part converting a set of input data into a set of image data that can be processed by an image forming apparatus forming an image on a medium in accordance with the set of image data;

a superimposing part superimposing at least two sets of image data converted from at least two different sets of input data to generate a single set of superimposed image data, the image forming apparatus forming an image on the medium based on the single set of

superimposed image data;

a form storing part selectively storing the set of image data converted from the set of input data as a predetermined form that is superimposed;

a limiting part limiting use of the predetermined form in accordance with limitation information showing a limitation of use of a first set of input data;

the limitation information including a first permission of a user to initiate the superimposing by the superimposing part, a second permission of a user to modify the first set of input data, and a third permission of a user to delete the first set of input data;

the first permission, the second permission, and the third permission being indicated by specified bits in the limitation information; and

limitation information for each user being stored in the first set of input data.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for converting data comprising:

converting a set of input data into a set of image data that can be processed by an image forming apparatus forming an image on a medium in accordance with the set of image data; and

superimposing at least a first set of image data converted from a first set of input data substantially prior to a time of printing and a second set of image data converted from a second set of input data different from the first set of input data, the second set of input data including non-image data, to generate a single set of superimposed image data;

limiting use of the single set of superimposed image data in accordance with limitation information showing a limitation of use of the first set of input data;

forming an image on the medium based on the single set of superimposed image data;

superimposing the first and second sets of image data substantially when a command is received to form the image on the medium;

the limitation information including a first permission of a user to initiate the superimposing, a second permission of a user to modify the first set of input data, and a third permission of a user to delete the first set of input data;

the first permission, the second permission, and the third permission being indicated by specified bits in the limitation information; and

limitation information for each user being stored in the first set of input data.

12. (Previously Presented) The method for converting data as claimed in claim 11, further comprising sending the single set of superimposed image data to the image forming apparatus.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said superimposing superimposes at least one set of image data over another set of image data that is converted from the set of input data and stored as a predetermined form.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said superimposing selects a desired form from at least one predetermined form and superimposes at least one set of image data over the desired form.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said superimposing enables changing of the predetermined form.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said superimposing enables changing of layout information that indicates a position where the predetermined form is formed on the medium and is stored by associating the layout information with the predetermined form.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising previewing the single set of superimposed image data generated by said superimposing.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for converting data comprising:
converting a set of input data into a set of image data that can be processed by an image forming apparatus forming an image on a medium in accordance with the set of image data;
superimposing at least two sets of image data converted from at least two different sets of input data to generate a single set of superimposed image data;
forming an image on the medium based on the single set of superimposed image data;
limiting use of the predetermined form in accordance with limitation information showing a limitation of use of a first set of input data;
the limitation information including a first permission of a user to initiate the superimposing, a second permission of a user to modify the first set of input data, and a third permission of a user to delete the first set of input data;
the first permission, the second permission, and the third permission being indicated by specified bits in the limitation information; and
limitation information for each user being stored in the first set of input data.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a program for controlling a computer to convert data, the program comprising a process of:

- converting a set of input data into a set of image data that can be processed by an image forming apparatus forming an image on a medium in accordance with the set of image data;
- superimposing at least a first set of image data converted from a first set of input data substantially prior to a time of printing and a second set of image data converted from a second set of input data different from the first set of input data, the second set of input data including non-image data, to generate a single set of superimposed image data;
- limiting use of the single set of superimposed image data in accordance with limitation information showing a limitation of use of the first set of input data;
- forming an image on the medium based on the single set of superimposed image data;
- superimposing the first and second sets of image data substantially when the image forming apparatus receives a command to form the image on the medium;
- the limitation information including a first permission of a user to initiate the superimposing, a second permission of a user to modify the first set of input data, and a third permission of a user to delete the first set of input data;
- the first permission, the second permission, and the third permission being indicated by specified bits in the limitation information; and
- limitation information for each user being stored in the first set of input data.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 19, further comprising sending the single set of superimposed image data to the image forming apparatus.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 19, wherein said superimposing superimposes at least one set of image data over another set of image data that is converted from the set of input data and stored as a predetermined form.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 19, wherein said superimposing selects a desired form from at least one predetermined form and superimposes at least one set of image data over the desired form.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 21, wherein said superimposing enables changing of the predetermined form.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 21, wherein said superimposing enables changing of layout information that indicates a position where the predetermined form is formed on the medium and is stored by associating the layout information with the predetermined form.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 19, further comprising previewing the single set of superimposed image data generated by said superimposing.

26. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a program for controlling a computer to convert data, the program comprising a process of:

- converting a set of input data into a set of image data that can be processed by an image forming apparatus forming an image on a medium in accordance with the set of image data;
- superimposing at least two sets of image data converted from at least two different sets of input data to generate a single set of superimposed image data;
- forming an image on the medium based on the single set of superimposed image data; and
- limiting use of the predetermined form in accordance with limitation information showing a limitation of use of a first set of input data;
- the limitation information including a first permission of a user to initiate the superimposing, a second permission of a user to modify the first set of input data, and a third permission of a user to delete the first set of input data;
- the first permission, the second permission, and the third permission being indicated by specified bits in the limitation information; and
- limitation information for each user being stored in the first set of input data.